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Before the  
Federal Communications Commission  
Washington, D.C. 20554

In the Matter of:

Technical Standards for Determining Eligibility  
For Satellite-Delivered Network Signals Pursuant  
To The Satellite Home Viewer Improvement Act

ET Docket No. 00-90

# REQUEST

For A Further Extension of Time  
of Thirty Days  
For the Filing of Comments and Reply Comments  
In This Proceeding.

July 14, 2000

J. E. Schmidt,  
An American Citizen  
PO Box 134  
Billings, Montana 59103

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List A B C D E

1. To the best of my knowledge this is the second request for an extension of time in this proceeding. An earlier Request for more time, filed by the National Association of Broadcasters, has been granted. I now request a further extension of time be granted to afford all parties filing Comments an additional Thirty (30) days.

2. It is, as I understand it, the stated policy of the FCC to have its processes open to all, including the general public. However, based on my experiences, as a practical matter access ranges from being quite difficult to nearly impossible unless one is "within the Beltway," and in very close proximity to the FCC's office building in Washington, DC.

3. It would seem obvious that the FCC's website and the Internet should be the easiest way to obtain access to information about proceedings and papers filed by parties in connection with same. However this is contingent upon one being able to have the use of a high-speed Internet connection. The Internet does not work too well for many people in the State of Montana, and there also appear to be problems with the website at the FCC's end.

A Search for information, using one of the Search Engines, usually takes 3-4 minutes under the best of circumstances and sometimes up to ten minutes; but it is also rather common for the Search Engine to crash, producing an error message and no information at all. Another problem is the website is not set up to provide Access to Current Proceedings for the general public. In fact on this point the website is exceedingly obtuse.

There should be a Conspicuous Link on the home page that would immediately take the user directly to a list of such proceedings with descriptions, then when one "clicks" on the one of interest, the user should immediately be taken to a list of all documents filed in the proceeding... from the first Notice, then all Comments, etc. to the final Decision of the FCC in the matter. From this list it should be possible to download either the original word-processor file in which the document was created, plus other versions such as "\*.pdf" file conversions which are useful to lawyers who may require a precise rendering of the original document as filed. Unfortunately links of this kind do not exist on the website; or if they do are not plainly marked.

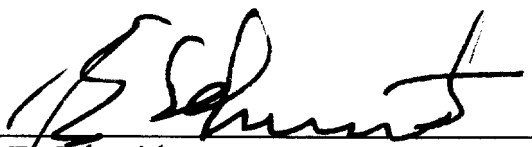
Most of us in the general public cannot afford either the Adobe Acrobat software or a high-speed Internet connection. Acrobat pdf files are very large and with just a simple telephone line connection like most people have to an Internet service provider (ISP) it can take a long, long time just to download one of them. Acrobat supplies a free Reader, but it is of limited functionality. Original word-processor files are small, even for documents of a large number of pages, and thus would download rapidly.

Out here in Montana and even within the City of Billings; which is our largest city in terms of population; we are dependent upon the "US Worst TerriblePhone Company Monopoly," as many are inclined to call it, aka US West. The telephone lines and circuits of this company are largely very, very old, not in good condition and not well maintained. Absent viable competition in the form of additional telephone companies providing better technology on a large scale, such as "wireless," and competitive pricing for telephone service in the marketplace, we who live here see little prospect that any of this is going to change or improve soon. This, therefore, presents formidable obstacles to the successful use of the Internet to obtain materials and documents from the FCC website; even if one succeeds in finding the information needed in the first place.

4. Due to the website problems, I believe that the FCC may not now be in compliance with current law requiring access to its proceedings by the general public and by disabled individuals.

5. Accordingly, for reasons stated above, a further extension of time of Thirty (30) Days for the filing of Comments and Reply Comments for ET Docket No. 00-90 is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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J. E. Schmidt,  
An American Citizen